

Scorton Creek Subwatershed Sandwich, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

The Scorton Creek Subwatershed is located in Sandwich. It has an area of 6,916 acres. Scorton Creek joins with waters from Carver Creek and Long Creek as it runs into Scorton Harbor, which opens to Cape Cod Bay. Routes 6 and 6A run east-west through this watershed.

In 1995, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Thornton W. Burgess Society signed a management agreement for a large tract of land on Scorton Creek. The “Game Farm” is a pristine tract of 133 acres that contains upland, salt marsh, forest, and pond habitats. It was originally used to raise quail, pheasants, and trout for sportsmen and is currently being managed for educational and research purposes. Scorton Creek forms the northern border of the Game Farm. The Thornton W. Burgess Society is working to restore 39 acres of salt marsh on Scorton Creek.

Sandwich has a municipal water supply, though parts of East and South Sandwich are not part of the water district. There are no municipal sewers in the town.

Stewards:

- Thornton Burgess Society

Studies conducted in the watershed:

- Sandwich Property Tract 11 was evaluated for its suitability for future water supply sites in the Phase II Priority Land Acquisition Assessment Project conducted by the Cape Cod Commission. March 2001.
- Cape Cod Atlas of Tidally Restricted Salt Marshes. 2001. Cape Cod Commission.
- Testing and research are being conducted on tidal flushing and water quality of Scorton Creek.

Who is collecting water quality data and where:

- Unknown

Management actions taken:

- Town prohibited internal combustion engines larger than six horsepower from smaller ponds in Sandwich. Engines are limited to 15 horsepower on Lawrence and Spectacle Ponds.
- Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife stocks Hoxie Pond with rainbow, brook, and brown trout. Scorton Creek is annually stocked with sea run brown trout.
- Thornton Burgess Society is working to restore a salt marsh at Scorton Creek. Project involves culvert replacement, repair of holes in road, and educational signage along the banks of the culvert to explain area ecosystem. Received \$5,000 from Cape Cod Saltwater Fund in Fall 2001. Accepted into Massachusetts GROWetlands Initiative in 2002.

Subwatershed facts: (For data sources see the Appendix)

- 21 E sites: 0
- Solid waste sites: 0

- Zone IIs located in this watershed: 2
- Interim Wellhead Protection Areas (IWPAs): 3
- Percent of the undeveloped land that is protected (according to 1985/1990 data): 25.5%
- Acres of existing wetlands: 569
- Certified vernal pools: 4
- Named freshwater ponds: Hoxie's, Spectacle, Mill, Lily, and Lawrence
- Named rivers or creeks: Scorton River, Scorton Creek, Cows River, Long Creek, Carver Creek, Mill Creek, Jenny Dam River, Shove Creek
- Beach closures: Lawrence Pond was closed to swimming for at least one day during the 2001 season due to high enterococcus bacteria counts.
- Shellfish growing areas: Cape Cod Bay is approved for shellfishing.
- This watershed contains Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife.

Priorities:

- Spectacle Pond needs volunteers to participate in the Pond and Lakes Stewardship Project (PALS), measuring water quality and other characteristics of the pond.
- Conduct State Game Farm Salt Marsh Restoration Project.
- Implement those salt marsh restoration projects identified in the 2001 *Cape Cod Atlas of Tidally Restricted Salt Marshes* that have been evaluated and prioritized by the town. Sites are: Ploughed Neck Road restriction of Long Creek/Cow River (Site SA-9), Route 6A restriction of Scorton Creek (Sandwich) (SA-10), Pine Terrace extension restriction of channel off Scorton Creek (Sandwich) (SA-11), and Jones Lane restriction of Scorton Creek (SA-12).
- Acquire open space. Parcels considered a priority for acquisition for water supply protection and development: Sandwich Tracts 1, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 27, 31, and 40 were ranked as having medium or high water supply development potential in the Cape Cod Commission's *Priority Land Acquisition Assessment Project* (April 1999). These tracts are located throughout the Town of Sandwich.

Recreation:

Camping areas: none

Golf courses:

- Round Hill Country Club

Pathways and trails:

- www.capecodcommission.org/pathways/trailguide.htm

Public access:

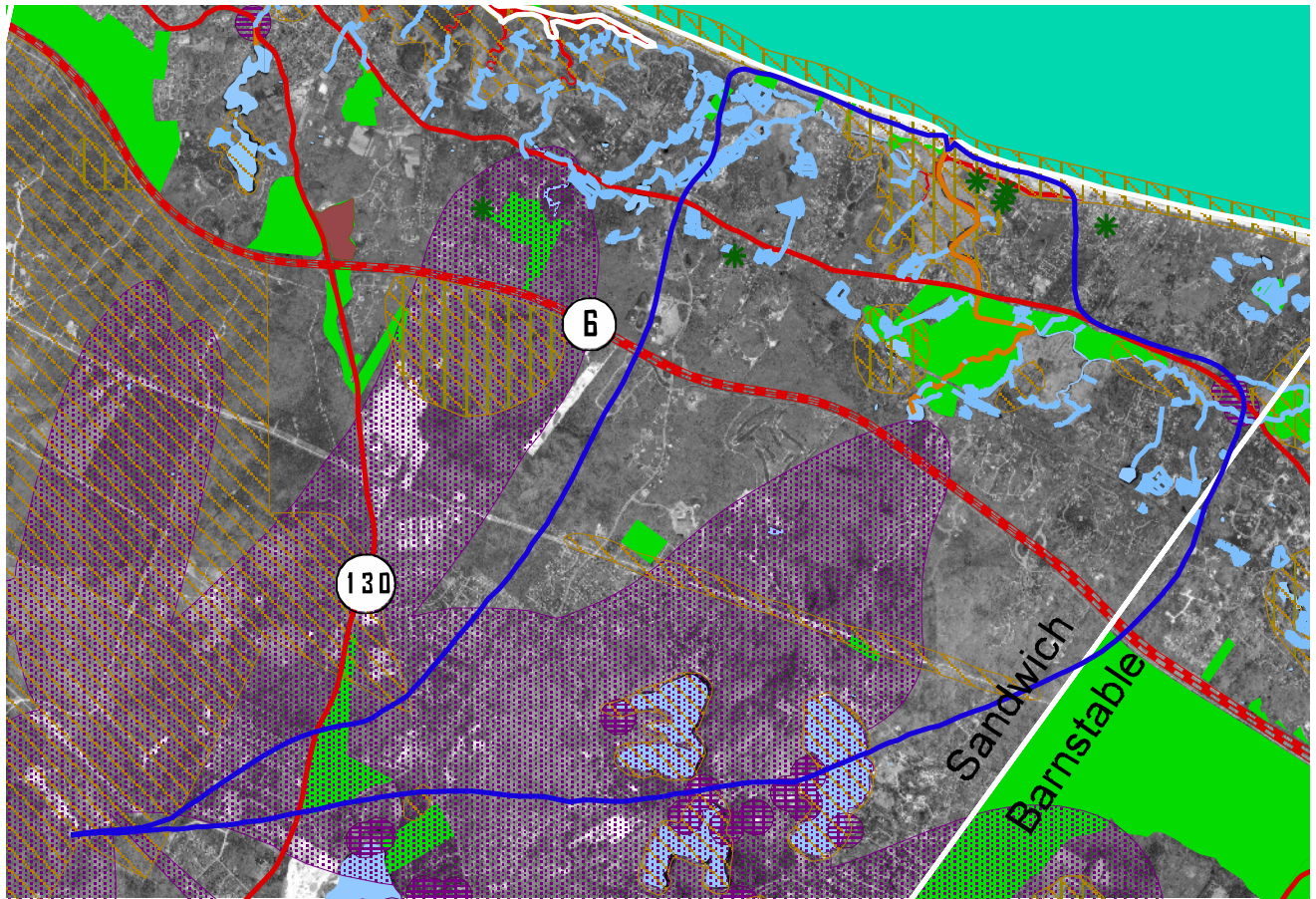
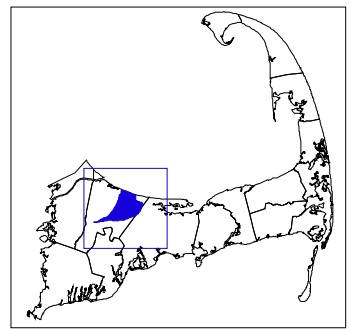
- www.state.ma.us/dfwele/pab/pabSEmap.htm

Public beaches and landings:

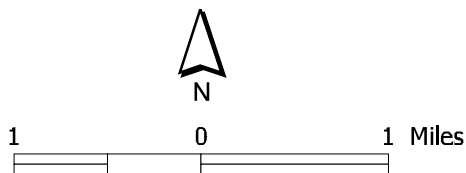
- Springhill Beach
- East Sandwich Beach
- Landing on Spectacle Pond

Scorton Creek

Sandwich, MA



Watershed Resources



Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program Data

- Certified Vernal Pool
- Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- Estimated Habitats of Rare Species

Groundwater Protection Areas

- Interim Wellhead Protection Area
- Zone II
- Solid Waste Facility

Watershed Boundary

Anadromous Fish Run

- Shellfish Growing Areas
- APPROVED
- CONDITIONALLY APPROVED
- MANAGEMENT CLOSURE
- PROHIBITED
- RESTRICTED

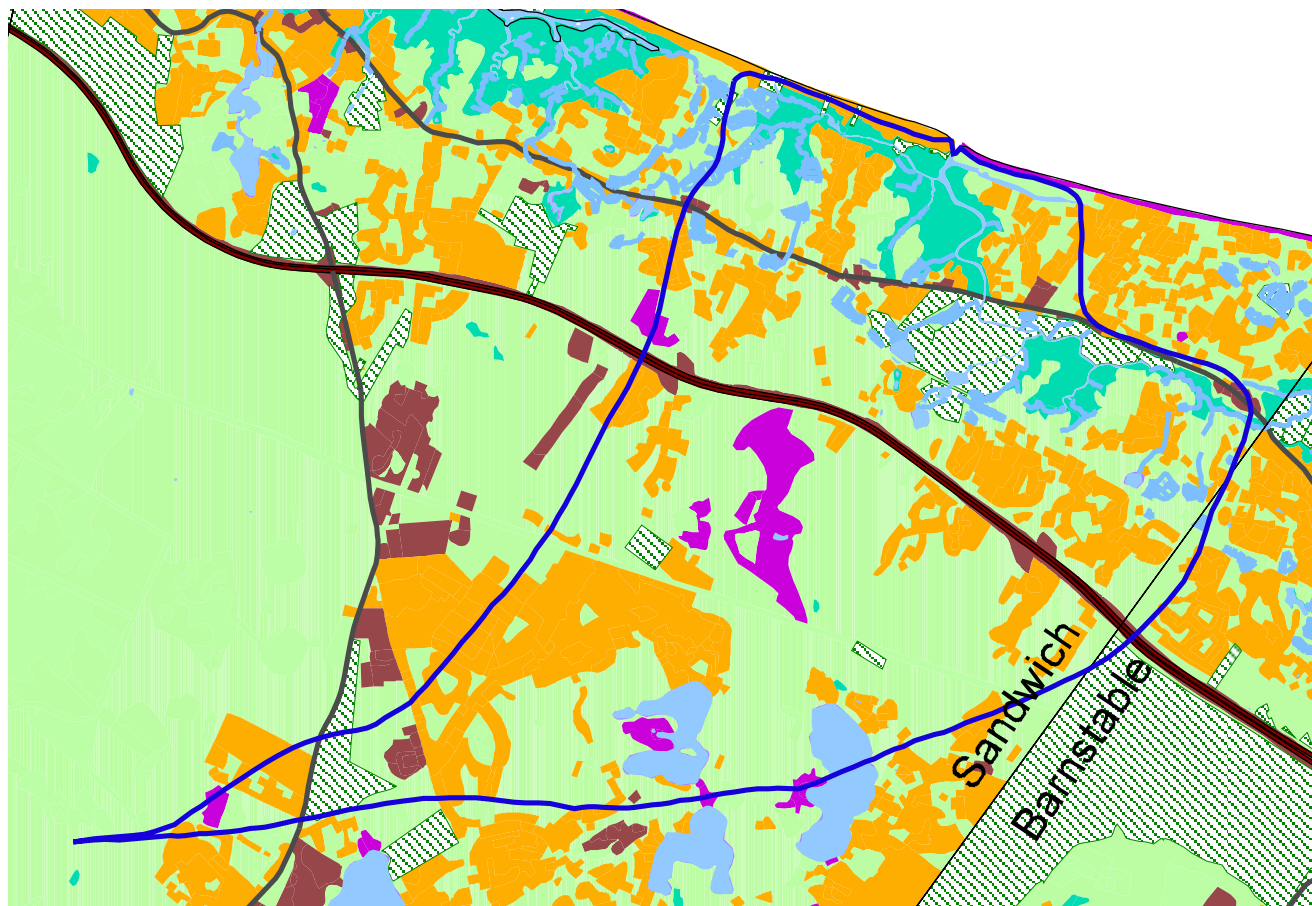
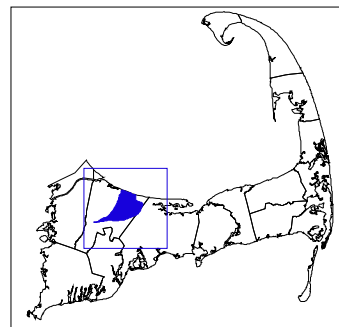
Open Space

- Streams
- Ponds
- Roads



Scorton Creek

Sandwich, MA



Land Use



1 0 1 Miles

Land Use

- non-residential developed
- open land
- recreation
- residential
- water
- wetland
- Streams
- Ponds
- Watershed Boundary
- Protected Open Space

